

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
MAY 1996
TAG REVIEW DATE: 17 OCTOBER 1996**

1. SITE NAME: Nellis Air Force Range, Area A

SITE NUMBER: J09NV110300

LOCATION:

City: Las Vegas
County: Lincoln and Nye
State: Nevada

PROJECT NUMBER: J09NV110301

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 4

ASR RAC: 3

2. POC's:

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3. SITE DESCRIPTION:

The former Nellis Air Force Range, **Area A**, is located in Lincoln and Nye Counties north and northeast of the present-day boundaries of the Nellis Air Force

Range complex north of Las Vegas, Nevada. The site consists of approximately 708,621 acres. Although the majority of the area is used for wildlife conservation and is controlled by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), some areas are leased to ranchers for cattle grazing. The remainder of the land is owned by various private landowners using the land for cattle ranching and farming.

4. SITE HISTORY:

The original Nellis Air Force Range was established by President Roosevelt in 1940 and was originally referred to as the Las Vegas Bombing and Gunnery Range. It consisted of nearly 3,560,000 acres. In 1942, Executive Order 9019 returned approximately 937,730 acres to the control of the Department of the Interior. Approximately 554,037 acres of this land was part of what was to make up **Area A**. This portion of **Area A**, which came from the former Las Vegas Bombing and Gunnery Range, had no specified designated targets. Later, in 1953, the Tonopah Bombing and Gunnery Range relinquished approximately 154,584 acres to the Department of the Interior. These two tracts of land comprise **Area A**, approximately 708,621 acres. There was no documentation found to identify specific target locations for the land which came from the Tonopah Bombing and Gunnery Range.

The majority of **Area A** is still used today as a Military Operations Area (MOA) for flyovers by the pilots from Nellis Air Force Base. This area consists of airspace use only and is not part of the active firing ranges of Nellis Air Force Range.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

AREA A-1:

Size, Acres:	307,861
Former Use:	North Bombing and Gunnery Range
Present Use:	Wildlife conservation and cattle ranching
Probable End Use:	Same as present
Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed (by documentation)
Type:	Interviewees report having seen .50 caliber cartridges, expended .50 caliber cartridge cases, and practice bomb scrap

AREA A-2:

Size, Acres: 1
Former Use: Burial site
Present Use: Wildlife conservation and
cattle ranching
Probable End Use: Same as present
Ordnance Presence: **Confirmed**
Type: Inert OE was buried here after a dedudding
operation in Area A-1 in 1950

AREA A-3:

Size, Acres: 246,176
Former Use: East Bombing and Gunnery Range
Present Use: Wildlife conservation and cattle ranching;
town of Rachel
Probable End Use: Same as present
Ordnance Presence: **Confirmed** (but NOT in or near the town)
Type: sand-filled practice bombs casings and .50
cal. ammunition (cartridges and
casings) have been reported

AREA A-4:

Size, Acres: 154,583
Former Use: Former Tonapah Bombing and Gunnery Range
Present Use: Wildlife conservation and
cattle ranching
Probable End Use: Same as present
Ordnance Presence: **Confirmed** (certificate of
clearance for surface only)
Type: scrap metal from sand-filled practice bombs
and .50 cal. ammunition (cartridges
and casings) have been reported

6. CURRENT STATUS: The draft Archives Search Report for Nellis Air Force Range, **Area A**, was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, in May 1996.

7. STRATEGY: EE/CA (see next statement)

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

Due to ranchers finding inert items, it is not prudent to ignore the possibility that people may run into 'live' bombs or spotting charges at some point. Therefore, a very low-priority EE/CA is recommended. An educational program like the one described by Mr. Joe Fallini (owner of Twin Springs Ranch) may be the most cost-effective solution for this reportedly remote, isolated site. (See pages 12 and 13 of the Findings)

Rights of Entry: Owners may view any intrusive action as unnecessary. Subject acreage is very remote and used only as Wildlife conservation and cattle ranching.

Remoteness of A-1: Except for some buildings of the Tonapah Test Range facilities (a military installation), which borders Area A-1, this area is remote and not well-traveled. (One rancher gets to his holdings by helicopter.) Except for the reported .50 caliber cartridges, the ammunition items that have been reported have only been debris in isolated areas and widely separated.

1000-pound bomb: For Area A-1, the ASR reports that an empty, 1000-pound bomb was found at a miner's cabin. A representative from BLM reported that it appeared to have been brought there from another location for the purpose of storing a liquid, possibly water. It is not believed that this item came from Nellis AF Range, Area A.

Remoteness of A-2: While this area is confirmed for buried OE items, due to its remoteness (25 miles from the nearest inhabited building), it receives a RAC 5.

Remoteness of A-3: Since **no** reports of ammunition finds have come from the townspeople of Rachel and since all reports indicate that munitions are widely scattered and not close to town, it seems unlikely that these people are at any immediate risk from OE at this site.

A-4: This area was "Certified Clear" of "all dangerous and/or explosive materials reasonably possible to detect" on 31 August 1950. There are no records or evidence to indicate EOD or anyone else has been called to remove any OE since 1950.

General: All areas are confirmed for ordnance presence. However, A-1, A-2, and A-4 are very remote and are likely to remain the same. Area A-3 contains the town of Rachel, NV (Population: 100). There have been no reported munition finds in or near the town of Rachel.

Water lines: If intrusive work is ever begun, Mr. Fallini, owner of the Twin Springs Ranch wishes to be notified. He has water lines buried around Areas A-2 and A-4.

Project Number: The original Nellis INPR was identified as site number J09NV050800, Nellis Air Force Range /D/ (See E-1 in the Conclusions and Recommendations portion of the ASR), and later broken down into smaller projects. The current site number is J09NV110300. The present project number is J09NV110301.

Acreage Discrepancy: There is a discrepancy in acreage between the Inventory

Project Report (INPR) and this report. The ASR reports that the discrepancy seems to have been caused by not taking into consideration the fact that some sections in this area are not a full 640 acres. Consequently, the site is only 708,621 acres versus the originally believed 748,285 acres. See **Appendix G** in the Conclusions and Recommendations portion of the ASR for examples of some adjustments.

Natural Resources: There are known Federally- and State-listed species occurring in the site area including the desert bighorn sheep, the spotted bat and the pygmy rabbit. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities.

Historical Resource: No specific cultural or historical sites associated with this site are reported in the ASR. However, any intrusive measures taken within the area will require oversight by the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) and/or other like organizations.

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: EE/CA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only